

Season 4 Episode 14

Red Ball Rampage

Jason and Mason are walking down a bright sunny street in San Francisco at the height of day. Jason said, "I haven't been to this arcade in ages. It was very unique and different from all the other arcades we've been to." Mason said, "Don't be surprised if this arcade doesn't exist anymore." Jason said, "It was a very popular place. Why wouldn't it exist anymore?" Mason said, "Remember last time we went there?" Jason thinks and he gets flashbacks of him playing various arcade games against a robotic red ball with arms and legs that look like they are made out of classic computer parts and he has a gray antenna with a small red ball on the top. Jason plays all kinds of arcade games with the ball and he always wins and beats the red ball's high scores. Jason has the time of his life while the red ball looks aggravated. Jason said, "I remember that. That Red Ball used to brag about how it is his arcade and that he is better than everyone else at the games. That clearly wasn't true. I always beat him. I think having him at the arcade was just a gimmick to get people to go to arcades when they were declining. What other arcade has a red ball that runs around and lets you play arcade games with him and beat him?"

Jason and Mason arrive at the arcade and it has a faded antiquated sign that says, "Red Ball Arcade." The inside looks black and charred and most of the games look like they were fried. Jason and Mason step into the place and Jason said, "What happened here?" Mason said, "Just what I expected. Someone burned down the place." Jason walks around and he sees the burned remains of the games are still there. Jason said, "The games are still here." He spots a fridge with drinks in it and he said, "There's a fridge filled with drinks here. Someone must still be here." Jason starts searching around the place. Jason opens up the door to a back room and Mason follows him. Jason and Mason find the Red Ball and he is sitting on a bench and he looks aggravated. The Red Ball said, "You've come to finish the job?" Jason said, "What job?" Red Ball said, "You've burned this place down and you are the reason why this chain of arcades has become a joke." Jason said, "I don't remember destroying this place." The Red Ball narrates and it goes to a flashback... "You would beat me at all the games. You would get scores that were so high the computer systems that ran the games couldn't calculate the score anymore. It overloaded their circuits." Jason said, "I remember that. That's the closest I ever got to being like that guy who beat Pac-Guy perfectly. These games seemed to be easier." The Red Ball continues, "I got pissed with you and I went to fight with you. After you ran out of my arcade, the machines caught on fire and exploded and it caused hundreds of people to get injured. This made the news and it made this arcade chain look bad. This was all your fault. I had a good life at this arcade. The kids would play my games and I would play with the kids and we had fun. It was you that came here and made me look like a joke. I used to have tons of friends and now, I have none. Well

I do have one.” The Red Ball points to a horizontal computer with a CRT monitor on top of it. The computer is on and it is showing some kind of website where anyone can write anything.

Jason and Mason go up to the computer and they find all kinds of posts where people are making fun of the Red Ball. Jason reads some of the comments and he reads, “Looks like the arcade industry got an orchiectomy.” ‘Looks like Red Ball didn’t have a pair.’ ‘This place should have been called the ‘Blue Ball Arcade.’” The Red Ball said, “Don’t listen to those fools. Those fools know nothing.” Mason said, “You said you had one friend. Who is it?” The Red Ball points to the computer and legs are spawned from underneath it and arms are spawned from its sides. Its screen shows a feminine looking face. The computer said, “That would be me.” Red Ball said, “The only thing here that didn’t get burned in the fire was this computer. With no one coming here to visit me, I had to make some kind of a friend for me. I built that computer into a robot.” The computer said, “I am Computra. I am Red Ball’s friend. Red Ball really got the bitter end of everything. He has a right to be pissed.” Mason looks at this and said, “It really was unfair that you were treated like this. I also think it is impressive that you were able to build a pretty average computer into a robot friend. I have a lab filled with inventions like this. Maybe you can come and live with us. I will show your computer friend to the science and technology community. I’m sure they will be impressed with you. This is the least we can do for you. I am sure you will love my lab. There are plenty of other gadgets and things for you to work on.” Red Ball said, “Well... I guess.”

The Red Ball and his computer friend are in Mason’s lab. They are amazed by the technologies they see working in Mason’s lab. Mason said, “I told you this place was impressive.” The Red Ball said, “Yeah. It totally is.” The Red Ball finds some broken gadgets and he fixes some of them. Mason is impressed with Red Ball’s work. The Red Ball fixes more broken gadgets and he makes more things in Mason’s lab work. Mason and Orbot are watching the Red Ball. Orbot said, “That Red Ball is really something. I wonder if he can fix that issue that happens when I randomly lose flight after getting an update.” Mason said, “Well, that is likely due to update issues with your firmware and...” The Red Ball looks over Orbot and he opens up the front body of Orbot revealing a screen. It is showing BIOS information and the Red Ball goes through the settings and he configures them. He then has it set to install updates. The updates install and Orbot joyfully orbits around Mason and Red Ball. Orbot said, “Look. I can fly right out of the box.” Mason said, “Your fixes are really impressive. You may have failed at being an arcade mascot but I think your new career in the technology industry will more than make up for that. I know some people in the science and technology community. We will show them your work.”

Mason and Red Ball bring Computra and some other inventions made by Red Ball to some science and technology investors. Red Ball demonstrates a new light he built that is small and round like a disc and it can fit anywhere and it emits a bright light. Red Ball said, “This is my Light Disc. It is small and compact and it is bright. You can bring it anywhere and light up anything.” The investors look mildly amused. Red Ball shows a portable vinyl record player. Red Ball said, “This is a portable vinyl record player. You can use it to play vinyl records where ever you go.” Red Ball brings Computra into the spotlight and he said, “This is my greatest invention to date. This is, Computra.” Computra is activated and she said, “I am Computra. I am Red Ball’s friend. Red Ball is a great inventor and he is also a skilled gamer.” The investors look impressed. One of the investors said, “Can that computer also work as an actual computer?” The Red Ball said, “She does. She was built from a computer running Looking Glass 94 and it is still installed on her.” Computra rests on the table in front

of the investors and one of them uses her keyboard and mouse. The investor finds that Red Ball left the internet browser open in the background and he clicks on it in the taskbar and he brings it up on the screen. It shows the website where people were badmouthing Red Ball. The investors read over everything and one of them said, "It seems here that you used to be the mascot for that Red Ball Arcade." Red Ball looks scared. Another investor reads over the comments and said, "It seems the place burned down. You ran an arcade that once burned down? That doesn't sound good. How do we know that your inventions aren't going to do the same thing? We've never invested in inventions from a red ball before and that statement still holds true. We don't want to invest in any of your gadgets. We don't think it is worth the risk." Red Ball looks like he is dying inside and his soul is suddenly crushed.

Mason and Red Ball walk down the street with Computra and Red Ball said, "I thought I finally had a shot at making it big in the technology world but I guess not. I guess I am nothing but a failure. All those fools on the internet were right. I am nothing but a big red joke." Mason said, "No, you're not a failure. You just need to present your content to different investors that are more likely going to be interested in your technology. Maybe you can also look into getting that nefarious website that badmouths you getting shut down. You have software skills. I am sure you can pull that off."

That night, Red Ball is in Mason's lab looking over that website on Computra. Red Ball said, "I've searched web sources on how to take down this content but it looks like it is heavily protected. The only way I can take this down is if I destroy the server hosting this content physically." Computra said, "You can do that." Red Ball raises an eye to Computra. Computra continues, "My computer brain connects to all the IP addresses and knows the locations of all the servers involved with every website. It was one of many things you programmed into me. Things have been unfair to you and the only way you can make them fair is if you fight back against them. You are quite strong after all and you are capable of making yourself bounce as a means of destroying things." Red Ball said, "I once injured a kid doing that. I don't want to do that again." Computra said, "You would be avenging yourself. You agree that your opportunities were ruined because of these trolls online that were badmouthing you. Maybe you can fight back against them and show them that you are nothing that should be joked about." The Red Ball said, "You're right. I am going to go to these fools and show them that I am not a joke. I will use my bounce powers if that's what it takes."

The Red Ball goes to some kid's house the next day and the kid's parents answer the door. The Red Ball said, "Is your son with the online name of, DarkLord88 home?" The father said, "Our son is in the basement now playing on the computer. You can come and see him if you like." The Red Ball enters the nice looking house. He is brought to the basement where he sees a punk kid typing random crap on the internet and he is using it to badmouth more people. The kid sees the Red Ball and he said, "Mr. Red Ball. Did you come here to have your fortune read to you in person? Let me tell you. You are nothing but a dumb ball that will never..." The Red Ball jumps and he bounces himself and it makes the house violently quake as if it were an earthquake. The Red Ball jumps and bounces all over the basement and he destroys the kid's computer and he destroys most of the kid's house and he bounces far away.

The Red Ball is making visits to various houses all over San Francisco and he is destroying them using his bouncing abilities. The Red Ball makes his way to the main central

server building that hosts hundreds of servers. The Red Ball is with Computra and they look through all the servers. The Red Ball said, "Which server is it?" Computra said, "It's this one." The Red Ball jumps and bounces and destroys the server. The Red Ball said, "Out of curiosity, what are all these other servers doing?" Computra said, "They are being used to host other websites that are visited by men without lives so they can feel better by bashing other people and things." The Red Ball said, "I bet there are other people that are getting treated poorly because of the contents of these servers. I will avenge them too." The Red Ball goes and bounces himself and smashes up all the servers.

The DDD News logo appears and it fades into George Ferrier sitting behind the desk of the DDD News room. George said, "I am George Ferrier of DDD News. In today's news, several websites that are hosted in the San Francisco area have suddenly stopped working. Security footage confirms that a major web server data center was attacked by a humanoid ball that bounced on the servers and destroyed them. This ball was also reported as having traveled all over San Francisco and destroyed the homes of hundreds of citizens. It seems these victims were specifically targeted. They all appeared to be web users which may have contributed to why they were targeted. We do not know for sure what the full motif was for this ball. One thing we do know is that this red ball was seen living in the lab of San Francisco's inventor, Mason. We think Mason may have had something to do with these server outages."

Jason and Mason are walking home from something and Jason said, "Arcades keep disappearing. This issue is only going to get worse and worse..." Jason and Mason see the lab and their house is surrounded. The SWAT Team is there and they have formed a barricade around the house and lab. Mason said, "What's happening?" The SWAT Commander said, "An evil ball was caught destroying houses and servers all over San Francisco. We tracked him to this property." Mason said, "This is our house and my lab." Mason tries to open the front door and it is locked. Mason tries using his keys and they don't work. Jason and Mason frantically run to Mason's lab and they try opening the door and it is locked shut. Mason said, "Maybe the emergency passcode still works." Mason finds the passcode terminal on his lab and he enters in his passcode and it says, "Access Denied." The top of Mason's lab opens up and a large screen comes out and the Red Ball is on the screen. The Red Ball looks down on Jason and Mason and he said, "You are finally getting what you deserve. The more I realize it, you two are the reason why I am in this mess. You've messed with me so I am going to mess with you. Say your prayers!" Red Ball activates homing missiles and the laser defense systems on Mason's lab. The lab uses these weapons on Jason and Mason and they run and hide behind a SWAT truck and it gets blasted and destroyed.

Jason and Mason visit Captain Fusion in the Fusion Lair. Captain Fusion is in his seat at the Fusion computer and he said, "A Red Ball you say?" Jason said, "Do you know this Red Ball?" Captain Fusion narrates while it goes to a flashback. "There was a kid that was a fan of mine named, Blake. He didn't get a lot of opportunities to go to places so I would take him to the Red Ball Arcade. We would go to this arcade on several occasions and he became good friends with the Red Ball mascot for the arcade. One time when we went there, this Red Ball got pretty angered with someone beating him at all the games. I didn't see who it was but the Red Ball was pretty aggravated and he wanted to bounce on the kid that was ticking him off. Several machines started malfunctioning and the place caught on fire. Blake got lost in a crowd of patrons attempting to escape. I went and saved some civilians from what

otherwise would have been certain death. While I was trying to look for Blake, the Red Ball spotted the kid that did this and he tried bouncing on him but he missed and bounced on Blake instead. He ended up injuring Blake leaving him critically injured. I managed to find him and have him brought to the hospital. I came to check up on him on several occasions since. This injury changed Blake forever. When he got better, he started working out and he built himself a strong body. He would later join wrestling competitions and became a champion. He competes in wrestling leagues all over the world. I think he is playing in a match near San Francisco. We could meet up with him. He used to be friends with the Red Ball."

Captain Fusion brings Jason and Mason to a wrestling match where they see Blake live in action and he uses classic wrestling moves on his opponents. Blake is very buff and is bald with a wide hairy chest that is thick and rock solid. He wins every round and he is given a golden belt indicating that he is the champion and has won the title. Captain Fusion brings Jason and Mason to meet Blake. Blake said, "Captain Fusion, it is always an honor." Captain Fusion said, "Do you remember the Red Ball from the Red Ball Arcade?" Blake gets some traumatizing flashbacks of his former friend injuring him. Blake said, "I remember that Red Ball. He was always obnoxious. He is kind of a joke now. I am glad his arcade got destroyed and his chain went bankrupt." Captain Fusion said, "This Red Ball is back and he locked Jason and Mason out of their house and hijacked Mason's lab. He also destroyed several homes all over San Francisco. You used to be his friend. You knew him well. You also seem to be quite a formidable fighter. Maybe you can talk him out of these stunts and maybe change him for the better." Blake thinks to himself and said, "I think I know how we can take him down."

Jason, Mason, and Captain Fusion bring Blake to Mason's lab where the door is still locked. The screen comes up from Mason's lab's roof and the Red Ball is on the screen. The Red Ball looks down on them and he said, "What do you want this time? Have you come to finally surrender and admit that I am better than everyone else?" Blake takes the center spotlight and Blake said, "Remember me?" The Red Ball looks at Blake and gets some emotional flashbacks of the fun they had playing at the arcade together. The Red Ball said, "Of course I remember you. You were the only real friend I ever had." Blake said, "You can still be my friend. You just have to give this lab and the house back to Jason and Mason." The Red Ball thinks and he said, "Jason and Mason are responsible for why I am in this predicament. No deal." Blake said, "What if we did a wrestling match. If I win, you have to give everything back to Jason and Mason and you will never destroy anyone's house or server center again. If you win, you can keep everything." Jason and Mason's eyes go big. Mason said, "Don't do this. There's a chance that you could lose and we could lose everything. Don't put my lab at risk." The Red Ball said, "Challenge accepted. We will wrestle. It will be publicly televised. All of San Francisco and possibly the entire country will know how pathetic all of you are and how awesome I am."

Ads fly everywhere on billboards and on TVs advertising for a battle that they are claiming is the fight of the millennium. TV channels are running pricey ad campaigns where they get people in costumes as Blake and the Red Ball to fight each other. Even the kids channels are advertising this event and are present to provide coverage of it.

The battle venue is ready and people enter. Jason puts on a white t-shirt with a picture of the Red Ball on it with a red circle with a line through it. Jason distributes these shirts to all

the people that attend the event. Pamela shows up and she puts on one of the shirts and she said, "That Red Ball is going down." El Dorro takes one and he gets a tub of popcorn ready and he said, "I think I have everything now." Keith walks by and he ignores Jason and he takes a seat. Clyde shows up too and he also ignores Jason. The Mayor of Crazy Town (from Odyssey of Oddities) shows up and he puts on one of Jason's shirts. He counts some money and he said, "I bet some pretty big bucks on this fight. He better win." The mayor takes his seat. Dirk (from Ivan's War) shows up and he takes one of Jason's shirts and puts it on." Everyone gets seated in the audience. Blake walks out on stage and he looks strong and mighty. George Ferrier is in the announcer's section where he narrates the fight and he is also wearing one of Jason's shirts. George said, "We have our challenger, Blake enter the stage. Give it all for Blake." Everyone cheers Blake on." George said, "Up next, it is San Francisco's infamous Red Ball." The Red Ball enters the stage and everyone boos at him. Some people start throwing tomatoes at the Red Ball. The Red Ball said, "Tomatoes, really? I am red."

The referee enters the stage and he initiates the fight and the Red Ball and Blake begin to duke it out. Blake grabs onto the Red Ball and the Red Ball jumps and pounds on Blake's head. The Red Ball bounces on Blake and he grabs onto the Red Ball's body blocking it. Blake struggles hard and he sweats hard. Red Ball's antenna activates and it glows red. The Red Ball finds Blake's weak points and he bounces on them leaving Blake injured. The Red Ball continues to strategically bounce on Blake. Blake gets pushed to the edge of the ring and he looks like he is being outsmarted by the red ball. Most of the people in the audience start booing at the Red Ball. Jason and Mason notice the Red Ball's antenna lights up again and he seems to know where and how to strike against Blake. Mason said, "Do you see his antenna?" Jason said, "It seems to be randomly glowing." Mason said, "I don't think it is randomly glowing. I think he is getting data transmitted to him. Who could be transmitting data to him?" Jason and Mason look at each other in a moment of realization.

Jason and Mason with Captain Fusion run through the halls of the stadium and they eventually find Computra and she is hiding in an obscure section of the stadium transmitting data to Red Ball. Jason said, "I knew something was up. You're nothing but a cheater. You're letting Red Ball win." Computra said, "Is it really cheating when the enemy has an unfair advantage? Blake is much stronger than Red Ball. He would win easy without my assistance." Jason said, "I don't know about that. Red Ball is pretty powerful without you. Attack." Jason, Mason, and Captain Fusion jump at Computra and she makes her long arms extend out and form fan blades and she uses them to smack off Jason, Mason, and Captain Fusion. Captain Fusion jumps at her and he attempts to fight against Computra but she smacks Captain Fusion in the head and uses her fan hands to twirl him around and she sends him plummeting into a wall leaving a large crack in it.

Computra said, "The only way to beat me is to crack my code." Jason goes up to Computra where her keyboard is placed in front of him. Jason looks at the computer screen and he sees there are icons for games that are ports of arcade games. Jason said, "If you want a gaming challenge then, you're on." Jason gets to the keyboard and Computra challenges him to a series of games. While this is going on, Computra is still sending signals to Red Ball and he is beating down Blake. Blake attempts fighting back but he keeps getting pummeled. Jason plays a fast racing and target shooting game against Computra and their scores are increasing at rapid rates. Red Ball gets the better of Blake and he bounces on him again and he is about to crush Blake. Computra's score is slightly above Jason's but the

scores are consistently growing. Jason spots a rare target in the game and he blasts it and collects the token spawned from it and it causes him to go fast and his score increases by an insane amount. It is so much that it breaks the scoreboard. Computra said, "NO!!!! How could you possibly get a score that high? That is impossible. That is..." Computra cannot handle Jason's score and she explodes.

Red Ball's antenna malfunctions and he said, "What the? What happened?" He flicks his antenna and it does nothing. Blake gets up and everyone starts cheering him on and chanting his name. Blake grabs onto the Red Ball and he rips the Red Ball in half. Everyone's eyes expand and they start cheering for Blake. Red Ball is ripped open and panties start pouring out of the inside of his body. George announces, "And I don't believe it. It looked like Blake was cooked but he made a miraculous comeback right there. It looks like the Red Ball has been destroyed and all that's left of him are his left and right halves and panties." Some of the panties rain out of the ring and Pamela spots a pair that has her name written on the tag. Pamela said, "Hey. These are mine. How did he get these?" There are also panties with names written on the tags that say, "Annie", and even, "Mayor." The mayor of Crazy Town gets up and he said, "I won. Looks like I am several times richer now." Everyone celebrates the death of Red Ball and Blake's victory.

Jason, Mason, Blake, and Captain Fusion are in Mason's lab. Mason looks at the destroyed remains of the Red Ball and Computra. Mason said, "These robots have a bizarre build structure. Who would have thought that a Looking Glass PC could be built into a sentient machine?" Jason said, "You were awesome out there. I never doubted that you would win." Captain Fusion said, "How did it feel to kill a childhood friend of yours?" Blake said, "I did feel some remorse but when I considered what he has done to Jason and Mason and other people around San Francisco, I don't feel bad about it. I kind of forgot about him in recent years anyways so it doesn't really make a difference to me." Captain Fusion said, "Well, you took a stand against overwhelming odds and won. That's what all the great heroes do. Maybe you could become a great hero too. I'm sure you have the skills for that."